Villages to be connected with I.T.

†3118. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to equip the villagers with I.T. (Central Communications and Information Technology);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) in what manner the villagers would be benefited by connecting them with the I.T; and

(d) the number and the details of States likely to be connected with I.T. in the first phase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Department of Information Technology is in the process of formulating a plan to facilitate establishment of Common Services Centres (CSCs) in rural areas across the country. For this purpose, draft guidelines have been prepared which aim to promote establishment of CSCs through appropriate Public Private Partnerships (PPPs). Such Centres would have flexibility to offer **a** mix of services (from Government & non-Government including localized services) that may be needed by the local community. Other details including coverage proposed are being worked out.

Computerization of treasuries in Karnataka

3119. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the request of the Government of Karnataka for financial assistance for computerization of the Treasuries in the State is pending with Government for a long time; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the likely date by when Government's approval would be granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD):

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.